

## § 702.50

(d) Such verified answer shall be published as an appendix to the report: *Provided, however,* That the Commission may except from the answer such matter as it determines to be scandalous, prejudicial or unnecessary.

[36 FR 5702, Mar. 27, 1971. Designated at 42 FR 14108, Mar. 15, 1977, and amended at 44 FR 75151, Dec. 19, 1979]

### Subpart B—Meetings

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552b, Pub. L. 94-409, 90 Stat. 1241.

SOURCE: 42 FR 14108, Mar. 15, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 702.50 Purpose and scope.

This section contains the regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights implementing sections (a)–(f) of 5 U.S.C. 552b, the “Government in the Sunshine Act.” They are adopted to further the principle that the public is entitled to the fullest practicable information regarding the decision-making processes of the Commission. They open to public observation meetings of the Commissioners of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights except where the rights of individuals are involved or the ability of the Commission to carry out its responsibilities requires confidentiality.

#### § 702.51 Definitions.

(a) *Commission* means the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and any Subcommittee of the Commission authorized under 42 U.S.C. 1975d(f).

(b) *Commissioner* means a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights appointed by the President under 42 U.S.C. 1975(b).

(c) *Solicitor* means the Solicitor of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

(d) *Meeting* means the deliberations of at least the number of Commissioners required to take action on behalf of the Commission where such deliberations determine or result in the joint conduct or disposition of official Commission business.

(1) The number of Commissioners required to take action on behalf of the Commission is four, except that such number is two when the Commissioners

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are a Subcommittee of the Commission authorized under 42 U.S.C. 1975d(f).

(2) Deliberations among Commissioners regarding the setting of the time, place or subject matter of a meeting, whether the meeting is open or closed, whether to withhold information discussed at a closed meeting, and any other deliberations required or permitted by 5 U.S.C. 552b (d) and (e) and § 702.54 and § 702.55 of this subpart, are not meetings for the purposes of this subpart.

(3) The consideration by Commissioners of Commission business which is not discussed through conference calls or a series of two party calls by the number of Commissioners required to take action on behalf of the Commission is not a meeting for the purposes of this subpart.

(e) *Public announcement* or *publicly announce* means the use of reasonable methods, such as the posting on Commission public notice bulletin boards and the issuing of press releases, to communicate information to the public regarding Commission meetings.

(f) *Staff Director* means the Staff Director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

[42 FR 14108, Mar. 15, 1977, as amended at 44 FR 75151, Dec. 19, 1979]

#### § 702.52 Open meeting requirements.

(a) Every portion of every Commission meeting shall be open to public observation, except as provided in § 702.53 of this subpart. Commissioners shall not jointly conduct or dispose of agency business other than in accordance with this subpart.

(b) This subpart gives the public the right to attend and observe Commission open meetings; it confers no right to participate in any way in such meetings.

(c) The Staff Director shall be responsible for making physical arrangements for Commission open meetings which provide ample space, sufficient visibility and adequate acoustics for public observation.

(d) The presiding Commissioner at an open meeting may exclude persons from a meeting and shall take all steps necessary to preserve order and decorum.